

1. A method of transfecting cells *in vitro* in culture medium comprising contacting cells in a culture medium with a composition for delivery of naked DNA, said composition comprising:
  - (a) a preparation of microparticles between 1 and 300  $\mu\text{m}$  in diameter, each of which preparation of microparticles comprises a synthetic, biocompatible, biodegradable polymeric matrix; and
  - (b) an effective amount of naked DNA dispersed within the preparation of microparticles, wherein said amount of naked DNA is greater than 20  $\mu\text{g}$ , in which the DNA contains a gene operably linked to a promoter, the nucleotide sequence of said gene being greater than thirty nucleotides in length;wherein said DNA is released or diffused from said matrix over a period of at least three months.
2. A method of transfecting cells *in vitro* in culture medium comprising contacting cells in a culture medium with a composition for delivery of naked DNA, said composition comprising:
  - (a) a preparation of microparticles between 1 and 300  $\mu\text{m}$  in diameter, each of which preparation of microparticles comprises a synthetic, biocompatible, non-biodegradable polymeric matrix; and
  - (b) an effective amount of naked DNA dispersed within the preparation of microparticles, wherein said amount of naked DNA is greater than 20  $\mu\text{g}$ , in which the DNA contains a gene operably linked to a promoter, the nucleotide sequence of said gene being greater than thirty nucleotides in length;wherein said DNA releases or diffuses from said matrix over a period of at least three months.